

Ref. 5076-10E5C

September 15, 1952

Dr. Charlotte Colwell
Veterans Administration Hospital
Hines, Illinois

Dear Dr. Colwell:

Your letter and cultures were on my desk when I returned from my vacation Saturday.

Thank you very much for taking the trouble to go over your experiment again. I have streaked out the slants on nutrient agar and, of course, promptly saw the SCV for myself. We will go ahead now to try to repeat your technique for making them. Might I ask for precise directions on making up the synthetic medium? This seems to be the only way we could be going wrong. We have been using MNQ as furnished by General Biochemicals.

We have picked up one lead that may be promising for other purposes: MNQ, and probably benzoquinone also, have a selective effect favoring auxotrophic mutants very similar to that shown by penicillin. It is not impossible that this is the underlying mechanism for the production of the SCV.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg